MARSEILLES—DAMASCU

The Race Won by Italy at 219 m.p.h. : Italians Also Second and Third : Great Britain's Lone Hand Fourth

AS many had expected, Italy won the great air race from Marseilles to Damascus and Paris ; not only so, but Italian machines secured second and third places as well, all three machines being of the Savoia-Marchetti S.79 type, fitted with three Alfa Romeo 126 R.C.34 radial air-cooled engines of 750 h.p. each, or a total of 2,250 h.p. The sole British competitor, Flying Officer A. E. Clouston, put up a magnificent fight, but with not much more than 400 b.h.p. his De Havilland Comet was obviously no match for the high-power Italian aeroplanes. In spite of this, however, Clouston put up the fourth fastest time, which can only be described as a very fine performance. His average speed for the 3,850 miles was 196 m.p.h., a figure which indicates that Clouston and his navigator, Flt. Lt. G. Nelson must have flown a very good course.

By securing first, second and third places in the race, the Savoia entry thus wins the whole of the prize money of three million francs—1,500,000 for first place, 1,000,000 for second, and 500,000 for third.

The Winner

Winner of the race was the S.79 (I-CUPA) of which Lt. Col. Samuele Cupini was chief pilot. Cupini was accompanied by Amadeo Paradisi as second pilot, and the other two members of his crew were Andu (engineer) and Vaschetto (radio operator). The lapsed time of I-CUPA was 17 hr. 32 min., and the time spent in refuelling at Damascus was 52 min. The average speed was 219 m.p.h. Second place was secured by Capt. Umberto Fiori in I-FILU, whose lapsed time was 17 hr. 57 min. ; he spent 43 min. in refuelling at Damascus, and his average speed was 214 m.p.h. Lt. Col. Attilio Biseo was third in I-BUMU with a lapsed time of 18 hr. 3min., a refuelling time of 49 min., and an average speed of 212 m.p.h. Lt. Col. Biseo had with him as second pilot Lt. Bruno Mussolini, son of the Duce. Flying Officer Clouston came fourth with a lapsed time of 19 hr. 41 min., a refuelling time of 23 min., which was the lowest scored in the race, and an average speed, as already mentioned, of 196 m.p.h.

The Savoia-Marchetti S.79 monoplanes entered in the race were originally prepared for the New York to Paris race, and when that was abandoned and the Marseilles-Damascus-Paris race substituted, it was not found necessary to make any alterations. The machine has been developed

(Left) One of the Fiat BR 20 As, which like the Savoia-Marchettis, are adaptions of a bomber type.

(Below) The Breguet Fulgur in the foreground came fifth, averaging 182 m.p.h. Seventh place was secured by the big Bloch 160 in the background.